AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1. (Currently amended) A method for controlling access to files within a
2   plurality of virtual servers, wherein the plurality of virtual servers operate within
3   separate virtual environments on a single computing device, comprising:
4   accepting a file access request;
5   determining if the file access request originated from within a virtual
6   server of the plurality of virtual servers, wherein the virtual server operates within
7   a virtual environment that is insulated from other virtual environments associated
8   with other virtual servers;
9   if the file access request originated from within the virtual server,
10   determining if the file access request is for a new file; and
11   if the file access request is for a new file,
12   assigning an identifier to the new file, wherein the identifier can
13   be used to identify the virtual server, and
14   creating the new file within a storage area associated with a
15   computing device hosting the plurality of virtual servers; and
16   if the file access request is for an existing file,
17   retrieving the identifier assigned to the existing file,
18   determining if the identifier is associated with the virtual
19   server that generated the file access request, and

20   if the identifier is associated with the virtual server that

21   generated the file access request, allowing access to the existing

22   file, thereby providing access control for the file.

1   2 (Canceled).

1   3. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein if the file

2 access request is a request to delete the existing file, the method further comprises

3 deleting the existing file.

1   4. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein if the file

2 access request is a request to modify the existing file, the method further

3 comprises modifying the existing file.

1   5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein if the file access request is a

2 request to allocate additional file space, the method further comprises:

3   determining if space is remaining in the storage area associated with the

4 computing device that is available to the virtual server; and

5   if space is remaining in the storage area that is available to the virtual

6 server, allocating the additional file space.

1   6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing a system

2 administrator to establish an amount of storage within the storage area associated

3 with the computing device that is available to the virtual server within the

4 plurality of virtual servers.

1   7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein if the file access request did

2 not originate from within the virtual server, the method further comprises:

3   determining if the file access request is a request to update the identifier;

4 and

5   if the file access request is a request to update the identifier, updating the

6 identifier.

1   8. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing

2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a

3 method for controlling access to files within a plurality of virtual servers, wherein

4 the plurality of virtual servers operate within separate virtual environments on a

5 single computing device, comprising:

6   accepting a file access request;

7   determining if the file access request originated from within a virtual

8 server of the plurality of virtual servers, wherein the virtual server operates within

9 a virtual environment that is insulated from other virtual environments associated

10 with other virtual servers;

11   if the file access request originated from within the virtual server,

12 determining if the file access request is for a new file; ~~and~~

13   if the file access request is for a new file,

14   assigning an identifier to the new file, wherein the identifier can

15   be used to identify the virtual server, and

16   creating the new file within a storage area associated with a

17   computing device hosting the plurality of virtual servers; <u>and</u>

18   <u>if the file access request is for an existing file,</u>

19   <u>retrieving the identifier assigned to the existing file,</u>

20   <u>determining if the identifier is associated with the virtual</u>

21   <u>server that generated the file access request, and</u>

22   if the identifier is associated with the virtual server that

23   generated the file access request, allowing access to the existing

24   file, thereby providing access control for the file.

1   9 (Canceled).

1   10. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of ~~claim~~

2   ~~9~~claim 8, wherein if the file access request is a request to delete the existing file,

3   the method further comprises deleting the existing file.

1   11. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of ~~claim~~

2   ~~9~~claim 8, wherein if the file access request is a request to modify the existing file,

3   the method further comprises modifying the existing file.

1   12. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein

2   if the file access request is a request to allocate additional file space, the method

3   further comprises:

4   determining if space is remaining in the storage area associated with the

5   computing device that is available to the virtual server; and

6   if space is remaining in the storage area that is available to the virtual

7   server, allocating the additional file space.

1   13. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, further

2   comprising allowing a system administrator to establish an amount of storage

3   within the storage area that is available to the virtual server within the plurality of

4   virtual servers.

5

1   14. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein
2 if the file access request did not originate from within the virtual server, the
3 method further comprises:
4   determining if the file access request is a request to update the identifier;
5 and
6   if the file access request is a request to update the identifier, updating the
7 identifier.

1   15. (Currently amended) An apparatus that facilitates controlling access to
2 files within a plurality of virtual servers, wherein the plurality of virtual servers
3 operate within separate virtual environments on a single computing device,
4 comprising:
5   an accepting mechanism that is configured to accept a file access request;
6   a first determining mechanism that is configured to determine if the file
7 access request originated from within a virtual server of the plurality of virtual
8 servers, wherein the virtual server operates within a virtual environment that is
9 insulated from other virtual environments associated with other virtual servers;
10   a second determining mechanism that is configured to determine if the file
11 access request is for a new file;
12   a creating mechanism that is configured to create the new file within a
13 storage area associated with a computing device hosting the plurality of virtual
14 servers if the file request is for a new file; and
15   an assigning mechanism that is configured to assign an identifier to the
16 new file, wherein the identifier can be used to identify the virtual server;
17   a retrieving mechanism that is configured to retrieve the identifier assigned
18 to an existing file;

6

19	a third determining mechanism that is configured to determine if the
20	identifier is associated with the virtual server that generated the file access
21	request; and
22	an accessing mechanism that is configured to allow access to the existing
23	file if the identifier is associated with the virtual server that generated the file,
24	thereby providing access control for the file.

1   16. (Canceled).

1   17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 16~~claim 15, further

2 comprising a deleting mechanism that is configured to delete the existing file if

3 the file access request is a request to delete the existing file.

1   18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 16~~claim 15, further

2 comprising a modifying mechanism that is configured to modify the existing file

3 if the file access request is a request to modify the existing file.

1   19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:

2   a fourth determining mechanism that is configured to determine if space is

3 remaining in the storage area associated with the computing device that is

4 available to the virtual server; and

5   an allocating mechanism that is configured to allocate additional space

6 from the storage area.

1   20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising an

2 establishing mechanism that is configured to allow a system administrator to

3   establish an amount of storage within the storage area that is available to the

4   virtual server.

1   21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:

2   a fifth determining mechanism that is configured to determine if the file

3   access request is a request to update the identifier; and

4   an updating mechanism that is configured to update the identifier if the file

5   access request is a request to update the identifier.